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Message Text

SECRET

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20
ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:AHALE
APPROVED BY:S/S-O:KKURZE
---------- 129447
O 140712Z DEC 73 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 224357

EXDIS, TOSEC 137

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF TOSEC 137 SENT ACTION TEL AVIV
GENEVA FROM SECSTATE 14 DECEMBER REPEATED

QTE S E C R E T STATE 244357

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, VS, VN, LA, CB

SUBJECT: THO MEETING - ACCOUNTING FOR MIA'S AND RETURN
OF REMAINS

1. LEADERS OF NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF POW/MIA'S IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIVIDUAL RELATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED HOPE YOU WILL RAISE SUBJECT OF ACCOUNTING FOR MISSING AND RETURN OF REMAINS OF THE DEAD WHEN YOU SEE LE DUC THO DECEMBER 20. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED AS BACK-GROUND FOR SUCH DISCUSSION.

2. OVER 1300 AMERICANS REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN AFTER-MATH OF INDOCHINA CONFLICT. USDEL TO FPJMT HAS FURNISHED OVERALL LISTS AS WELL AS DETAILED INFORMATION (IN VIETNAM-ESE) ON SPECIFIC CASES TO ASSIST DRV/PRG IN PROVIDING ACCOUNTING, AS REQUIRED BY 8B OF JAN. 27 AGREEMENT.

3. FPJMT VISITED DRV TWICE ON MAY, 1973 AND SAW GRAVES
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OF 23 MEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY, PLUS

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ANOTHER GRAVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN SAID TO HAVE DIED DURING CRASH. USG HOPED THESE VISITS WOULD LEAD TO PROMPT RETURN OF THESE AND OTHER REMAINS, BUT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED. NO REMAINS HAVE BEEN RETURNED, NOR HAS DRV/PRG PROVIDED INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE MISSING. USG TRANSMITTED DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO DRV ON THIS SUBJECT JULY 29 IN PARIS (TEXT IN STATE 149080).

4. WITH APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS, FAMILIES OF MISSING MEN AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ARE APPEALING AGAIN FOR ACTION ON THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. THEY AND WE HOPE DRV WILL PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION THEY HAVE ON MISSING/CAPTURED/DEAD AMERICANS AND WILL RETURN REMAINS. AS STATED IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE WE ALSO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR TEAMS FROM JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER TO SEARCH FOR THE DEAD AND MISSING IN AREAS OF INDOCHINA UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL. JCRC PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS ICC OR RED CROSS, TO CARRY OUT THEIR HUMANITARIAN MISSION. RUSH UNQTE
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